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Weir, and Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Single Registration Plate**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single
4 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of
5 attachment of the registration plate; authorizing the publisher of the Annotated
6 Code to make certain corrections; and generally relating to vehicle registration
7 plates.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Transportation
10 Section 13-410 and 13-411
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Transportation**

16 13-410.

17 (a) (1) [Except as otherwise provided in this title, when] WHEN it registers
18 a vehicle, the Administration shall issue to the owner[:

19 (i) One] ONE registration plate[, if the vehicle is a Class D
20 (motorcycle) vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

21 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle].

22 (2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] THE Administration
23 may provide for the issuance of only one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

24 (b) (1) [Each] THE registration plate shall display:

1 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is
2 issued; and

3 (ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

4 (2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

5 (c) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a
6 material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to
7 registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the
8 General Assembly through a budget item.

9 (d) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order
10 the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration
11 year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's
12 registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual
13 registration fee.

14 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the [plates] PLATE of the vehicle in the
15 manner that the Administrator requires.

16 (3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of
17 registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and
18 issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and
19 subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

20 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the
21 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
22 13-619 of this title.

23 13-411.

24 (a) [On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate
25 shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

26 (b) On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the] THE
27 REGISTRATION plate shall be attached on the:

28 (1) Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

29 (2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

30 [(c)] (B) At all times, [each] THE registration plate shall be:

31 (1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including registration plate
32 covers as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible;
33 and

34 (2) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

35 (i) In a horizontal position;

1 (ii) In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

2 (iii) In a place and position to be clearly visible.

3 [(d)] (C) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle
4 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not
5 drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle
6 and displayed on it, as required in this title:

7 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued for the vehicle by the
8 Administration for the current registration period; and

9 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

10 [(e)] (D) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle
11 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the
12 vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless
13 there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

14 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued by the Administration for the
15 current registration period; and

16 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

17 [(f)] (E) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle
18 Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear
19 any expired registration plate issued by any state.

20 [(g)] (F) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle
21 Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven
22 in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other
23 than the owner of the vehicle.

24 [(h)] (G) (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in
25 this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage
26 registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle.
27 Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle
28 provided for the display of THE registration [plates] PLATE may only be used for the
29 display of THE current registration [plates] PLATE in accordance with subsections (a)
30 [through (c)] AND (B) of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are
31 used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

32 (2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration
33 plates in lieu of A current registration [plates] PLATE, as provided in § 13-936.1 of
34 this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under
35 subsections (a) [through (c)] AND (B) of this section. However, the current registration
36 [plates] PLATE shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

1 [(i)] (H) It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all
2 vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether
3 the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the
5 Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this
6 Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code, in consultation with
7 the Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the
8 General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe corrections made under
9 this section in the editor's note following the section affected.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2001.